

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 308

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government, including government officials outside of the United States, should not purchase any goods made by forced labor, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, International Relations, and Banking and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government, including government officials outside of the United States, should not purchase any goods made by forced labor, and for other purposes.

Whereas there exists in the People's Republic of China a labor system known as the "laogai" (meaning "reform through labor") in which over 8,000,000 Chinese in a network of prisons, camps, and mental institutions must work in approximately 1,100 factories, farms, and other facilities;

Whereas these laogai facilities make numerous products ranging from sophisticated electronics and chemicals to simple toys and clothing, and many of these products are exported to the United States;

Whereas the United States annually imports about \$70,000,000,000 of goods from the People's Republic of China (including laogai goods), exports about \$15,000,000,000 of goods to the People's Republic of China, and has a trade deficit with the People's Republic of China of about \$55,000,000,000;

Whereas the United States has failed to enforce laws prohibiting the import of goods made by forced labor overseas, and has refused to demand inspection of dozens of laogai factories in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas noted Chinese freedom advocate Harry Wu, who spent 17 years in the laogai system, arrived in the United States in 1985, became a citizen of the United States, and has since exposed the labor practices of the People's Republic of China in numerous appearances before congressional committees; and

Whereas the Congress is on record as opposing forced labor, having enacted a prohibition (in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307)) on the importation of goods made by forced labor: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3           (1) the Federal Government, including govern-
- 4       ment officials outside of the United States, should
- 5       not purchase any goods made by forced labor;

1           (2) the President should instruct the Secretary  
2           of the Treasury to enforce strictly section 307 of the  
3           Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307); and

4           (3) the President should urge each international  
5           body to which the United States belongs, including  
6           the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-  
7           nization, and the International Monetary Fund, to  
8           adopt a policy prohibiting the purchase by that body  
9           of goods made by forced labor.

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